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LETTER DATED 13 MARCH 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GEORGIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, issued on 10 March 1996, regarding the tragic death of a United Nations military observer in the Gali region of Abkhazia, Georgia.

May I ask your kind assistance in circulating this statement as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Peter CHKHEIDZE
Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Statement issued on 10 March 1996 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia

On 9 March 1996, a vehicle belonging to the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) exploded on an anti-tank land mine near the village of First Gali in the Gali region of Abkhazia, Georgia, killing a United Nations military observer and seriously wounding other passengers in the car, including a Georgian female interpreter.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia expresses its deep regrets over this tragic accident and states that the responsibility for this act lies entirely with the separatist regime of Abkhazia, which controls the aforesaid territory.

Whereas the Government of Georgia, with the support of the United Nations and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), is going out of its way for the peaceful settlement of the conflict, the Abkhaz separatists continue their provocative actions manifested in banditry, hostage-taking and assaults against the peaceful population.

The terrorist act carried out against the United Nations military observers is just another example of the continuous attempts of the separatist regime to subvert the peace process.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia expresses its sincere condolences to the family of the deceased and strongly believes that the perpetrated act of vandalism will not impede the tireless efforts of the United Nations aimed at the peaceful settlement of the conflict.